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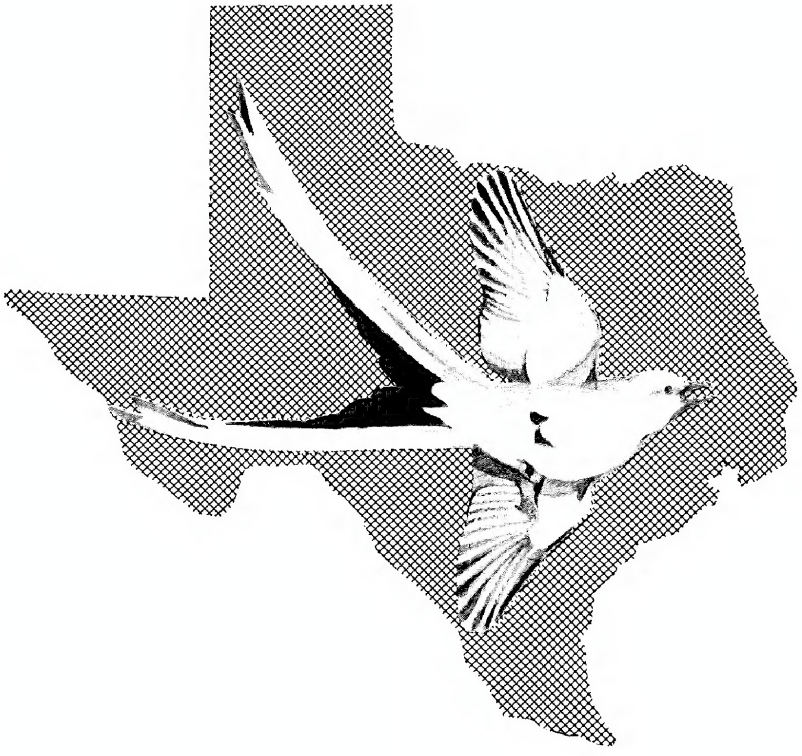

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Clarification of the Type Locality of the Black-capped Vireo

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ABSTRACT.—The current A.O.U. checklist places the type locality of the Black-capped Vireo "on the Devil's River near Sonora, Sutton County, Texas." By examining maps of early survey routes and revisiting Samuel Woodhouse's personal diaries, we have established that Woodhouse collected the first Black-capped Vireo near the present settlement of Juno in northern Val Verde County, Texas.

Samuel W. Woodhouse collected the first Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapillus*) known to science on 26 May 1851 "on the Rio San Pedro, two hundred and eight miles from San Antonio, on the road leading from that place to El Paso del Norte" (Woodhouse 1852). On that date he collected two males (type specimen: USNM 15040). Up through their fifth edition of the "Check-list of North American Birds", the American Ornithologists' Union (A.O.U.) simply cited Woodhouse's original locality (e.g., A.O.U. 1957). Deignan (1961) assigned the modern equivalent of the type locality as "= Devil's River near Sonora, Sutton County, Texas." Although Oberholser (1963) listed the type specimen from "the Devil's River 10 miles below its source in northern Val Verde County" in his 11,750-page typewritten manuscript of "The Bird Life of Texas", this conclusion was omitted from the published version of that work (Oberholser 1974). The A.O.U. followed Deignan in its sixth edition checklist (A.O.U. 1983). Marshall et al. (1985) further indicated some uncertainty about the precise type locality.

The confusion about the precise location where Woodhouse collected the first specimens is due largely to changing place names and ambiguity in certain key geographical phrases. Woodhouse described the type locality as being "on the road laid out under the direction of Bvt. Lieut. Col. J. E. Johnston, U.S. Topographical Engineers, in the year 1849, from San Antonio to El Paso" (Woodhouse, *in* Sitgreaves 1853). The publications containing maps of these early survey routes are relatively obscure or uncommon (e.g., Johnston et al. 1849; Sitgreaves 1853; Warren 1859a, b).

To clarify this situation, we examined maps of the original survey routes by Col. Johnston and others through southwest Texas (Johnston et al. 1849; Warren 1859a, b). By overlaying these on modern topographic maps (U.S. Geological Survey 1969, 1978), we were able to reconstruct each route fairly accurately with reference to more precisely mapped land forms and modern place names. Finally, we re-examined Woodhouse's original diaries (Woodhouse 1851a, b) to gain further details of his route and clues to the location and environment in which he collected the first vireos. His daily accounts include mention of distances travelled each day and references to important land forms, as well as natural history information along the route and other events of the journey.

Captain Jack Hays of the Texas Rangers is credited with giving the Rio San Pedro its modern name of the Devil's River (Webb 1952; Tarpley 1980). That the two are equivalent is now reasonably certain.

Woodhouse said he took the first vireos "within ten miles of [the Rio San Pedro's] source" (Woodhouse, *in* Sitgreaves 1853). This phrase has caused confusion. Some researchers have apparently assumed that this referred to the topographic headwaters of the drainage basin. For various branches of the Devil's River including Granger Draw, Johnson Draw, and the Dry Devil's River (the more northerly one of two features so named in the region), the topographic headwaters are in Sutton, Schleicher, and Crockett counties (U.S. Geological Survey 1978). At the time of Woodhouse's journey, apparently no one had explored the actual headwaters of any of these areas (Warren 1859a, b; Bender 1933; Schmid 1969). Woodhouse's diaries (1851a, b) further suggest that he did not traverse the regions which would later become those counties (see below).

Moreover, the "source", i.e. base flow, of the Devil's River does not come from the topographic headwaters. The aforementioned branches of the Devil's River lack surface flow for most of the year except after significant storm events (Brune 1981). Instead, the base flow is derived from a series of major springs near the settlement of Juno in northern Val Verde County (Brune 1981). The most important contribution to the base flow of the Devil's River is from Pecan Springs which is about 12 km downstream of Juno on the west bank of the river (Brune 1981). Brune (1981) stated that "they are the main source of the Devil's River." Another collection of springs variously called Juno, Headwater, Stein, and San Pedro Springs is found at and just above Juno, and another nearby but smaller source was at Beaver Springs, 6 km upstream from Juno (Brune 1981). Beaver Springs, although apparently dried up in recent decades, are the northernmost springs on the Devil's River mentioned by Brune (1981). We cannot determine precisely which of these several springs Woodhouse referred to as the "source" of the Rio San Pedro but we believe it is likely to be Pecan Springs.

We reconstructed Woodhouse's daily travels from his diaries (Woodhouse 1851a, b). One point not made clear in Woodhouse's description of the type locality is that he did not actually travel the precise road laid out earlier by Johnston. Nonetheless, we determined that Woodhouse was on Johnston's route on 26 May 1851. The expedition had left San Felipe Springs near the present-day city of Del Rio on 21 May 1851 and spent the next five days making their way up along the Devil's River. They suffered a rain delay on 24–25 May when the river rose rapidly, preventing further crossings. The river had fallen enough by 26 May for the wagons to proceed. That day they encamped at a location "which is at the head of the river in summer" (Woodhouse 1851b, p. 17). It was here that Woodhouse

> "spent most of the day in trying to procure specimens[.] [I] rambled in the valley and on the mountains. I have procured specimens of a vireo? which I believe is new[,] the head of which is black, with a white line over the eye from the base of the bill. . . . I found it feeding in the cedars, it had a singular note. . . ." (Woodhouse 1851b, p. 18).

A cumulative tracking of distances travelled and landmarks passed each day during the period 21–26 May places the encampment of 26 May about 3 km

upstream of the present-day community of Juno. This would be about 15 km (9+ mi) upstream of the aforementioned Pecan Springs, corresponding well with Woodhouse's statement that he took the first Black-capped Vireos "within ten miles of [the Rio San Pedro's] source" (*in* Sitgreaves 1853). Furthermore, Woodhouse described the last "half-mile" stretch of the road near where they encamped on 26 May as being "swampy" (Woodhouse 1851b, p. 17). This may correspond to the series of springs "at and just above Juno" described by Brune (1981; see above).

The distance to the encampment of 26 May 1851 along Woodhouse's reconstructed route from San Antonio is approximately 320–355 km. This matches very well with Woodhouse's notation of securing the first Black-capped Vireo 208 mi (=335 km) from San Antonio (Woodhouse 1852).

Based on this information, we believe the modern day equivalent for the type locality of the Black-capped Vireo can be confidently placed on the Devil's River near the modern settlement of Juno, Val Verde County, Texas.

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Texas Bird Records Committee Report for 1989

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This report contains the decisions of the Texas Bird Records Committee (hereafter "TBRC" or "committee") of the Texas Ornithological Society reached during 1989. For information on previous actions of the TBRC see Arnold (1984 and 1985) and Lasley (1988 and 1989). The TBRC requests and reviews documentation on any record of a Texas Review Species (see end of report) as well as any record of any species if requested to do so by a member of the TBRC. Some of the records submitted to the TBRC during 1989 were gleaned from old *American Birds* or Christmas Bird Count files, thus some portion of the work of the committee during 1989 was to catch up on older records. The TBRC reached a final decision on 237 records during 1989: 159 records of 61 species were accepted and 78 records of 45 species were not accepted, an acceptance rate of 67% for this report. There were 212 observers who submitted documentation (to the TBRC or to other entities) that was reviewed by the committee during 1989.

This report officially adds three species to the Texas state list: Yellow-billed Loon, Bridled Tern, and Greenish Elaenia. These actions brought the Texas state list to 571 species in good standing at the end of 1989.

The TBRC solicits reports of any species on the Review List as well as any species not previously accepted for Texas. We desire written descriptions as well as photographs and tape recordings if available. If anyone has information concerning a Review Species but is unsure how to submit that information please contact any member of the TBRC or the author of this report. There is a document available that lists every known record of the Review Species and gives the status (accepted, rejected, submitted/in circulation, or unsubmitted) of each record. If interested in this document, contact the author.

The records in this report are arranged taxonomically following *The AOU Checklist of North American Birds* (AOU 1983) as currently supplemented. Within each species the records are listed chronologically. The TBRC file number is preceded by the year the record was originally submitted to the committee. If photos are on file with the TBRC, the Texas Photo Record File (TPRF) (Texas A&M University) number is also given. If a tape recording of the bird is on file with the TBRC, the Texas Bird Sounds Library (TBSL) (Sam Houston State University) number is also given. Specimen records are denoted with an asterisk (*) followed by the institution and file number where the specimen is housed. The information in each account is usually based on the information provided in the original submitted documentation; however, in some cases I have supplemented this with a full range of dates the bird(s) was present if that information was made available to me later. All observers who submitted written documentation or photos of accepted records are listed by initials. The initials of the original discoverers of any particular bird(s) are in **boldface** when that information was known to me. There has been no attempt to list all observers who saw a particular bird. A number in parentheses after the species name represents the total number of

accepted records in Texas for that species at the end of 1989; incomplete data prevents this information from being listed for all species at this time. All locations in *italics* are counties.

TBRC Membership.—Members of the TBRC during 1989 who participated in all decisions listed in this report are: Keith Arnold, Chairman, Greg Lasley, Secretary, Ted Eubanks, Jim Morgan, Ken Seyffert, Warren Pulich and John Arvin. In addition, Frances Williams retired from the committee during 1989 and Barry Zimmer was elected as a member. Both of these persons participated in many of the decisions listed in this report.

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Additional Abbreviations.—*AB* = *American Birds* magazine; BBNP = Big Bend National Park; CBC = Christmas Bird Count; GMNP = Guadalupe Mountains National Park; NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; SP = State Park; UTC = Upper Texas Coast.

Accepted Records

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*) (13). One (1989-47) at the Texas City Dike, *Galveston* from 21 November 1975 through 12 April 1976 (JH, WH, C&SCa, TBF, TC, L&MB, HN). Another (or the same?) (1989-48) at the Texas City Dike from 6 November 1976 through 6 March 1977 (**DD**, PJ, OH, RM). One (1989-49) at Texas City on 17 February 1978 (**TE**). One (1989-69) on Galveston Island, *Galveston* 24 April 1987 (WH). Up to five (1989-95, TPRF #749) photographed from Preston Peninsula, Lake Texoma, *Grayson* 10–28 January 1989 (**HG**).

Arctic/Pacific Loon (*Gavia arctica/pacifica*) (19). It is presumed that all records of this species complex in Texas pertain to Pacific Loon but since sight or photo identification of these two species is difficult at best, the TBRC has voted to list all the below records as Arctic/Pacific for the present time. This species occurs annually in very small numbers in Texas. One (1988-221, TPRF #666) at the Texas City Dike, *Galveston* from 19 November 1977 until 28 January 1978 (HoH). One (1988-207) at the Texas City Dike on 29 January 1984 (CH). One (1989-73) on Offat's Bayou in Galveston on 20 December 1986 (RBr). Two (1988-4, TPRF #669) photographed at Canyon Lake, *Comal* from 27–29 January 1987 (**L&SFl**, BAr). One (1988-217, TPRF #665) at Offat's Bayou in Galveston from "late" February until 17 April 1988 (MAu, JBe, GL). One (1988-236, TPRF #682) found at El Paso on 31 March 1988 in an exhausted condition was released at a nearby lake later that day; it lingered at the lake for several days before departing (JSp, BZ). One (1988-227, TPRF #675) at Estes, *Nueces* from 29–31 May 1988 (B&DB, JG, JSw)) represents the latest accepted spring date for the species in Texas. One (1988-274) at Lake Balmorhea, *Reeves* from 5–7 October 1988 (**ML**). One seen and photographed (1989-3, TPRF #734) at Spence Reservoir, *Coke* on 11 No-

vember 1988 (**MH**). One (1989-98, TPRF #738) found dead at El Paso on 7 December 1988 (**BZ, JDo**).

Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*) (1). One (1988-276, TPRF #696) at Buffalo Springs Lake, *Lubbock* from 15 December 1981 through 16 January 1982 represents the first accepted record for Texas (**CSt**).

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) (4). One (1989-50) at Quintana Jetty, Freeport, *Brazoria* from 17 December 1978 through 3 January 1979 (DD). One (1988-297) at Offat's Bayou in Galveston on 26 December 1987 (GH). One (1989-23) at Boles Road Lake, *Lubbock* on 5 & 7 January 1989 (**ML**).

Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*). One (1988-264, TPRF #691) at Mountain Shadow Lake, *El Paso* on 27 & 28 February 1988 (**JS**, RW). One (1988-235, TPRF #681) at Ft. Bliss, *El Paso* on 18 April 1988 (**BZ**). Two (1988-275, TPRF #695) at Lake Balmorhea, *Reeves* from 19 October through 28 November 1988 (**ML**). Two (1989-94) at Lake Balmorhea from 1 March through 3 May 1989 (**ML**, AW). This species was formerly regarded as a color phase of the Western Grebe and our knowledge of this species in Texas was very sparse until 1985. Since that time it has proven to be a regular fall and winter visitor in small numbers to far west Texas and was removed from the regular Review List by the TBRC in early 1990 (see end of report).

Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*). Four in a group (1989-107) seen 42 miles off Port Aransas, *Nueces* on 29 September 1981 (**DW**). This species is now regarded as a regular late summer visitor to Texas waters and is no longer on the rarities Review List (see end of report).

Sooty Shearwwater (*Puffinus griseus*) (3). One (1988-234, TPRF #680) was found injured at Port Aransas, *Nueces* on 19 May 1988 (**TA**). A photo of this bird was published in *AB* 42:458.

Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*) (4). One (1985-7) at Mitchell Lake, *Bexar,* 14 June 1984 (WS). This record was initially not accepted by the TBRC (Arnold, 1985), but was recirculated through the TBRC and accepted in 1989.

Red-billed Tropicbird (*Phaethon aethereus*) (2). One immature (1989-134, TPRF #762, *TCWC #12437, TBSL #197-01) found exhausted at Zapata, *Zapata* near Falcon Lake on 29 April 1989 (NU). A photo of this bird was published in *AB* 43:503. The bird was kept alive until 23 May 1989 by a wildlife rehabilitator.

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*) (9). One immature (1989-59) on 15 March 1989 at the "Matagorda Jetty" (=mouth of Colorado River), *Matagorda* (JMu).

Red-footed Booby (*Sula sula*) (1). One (1988-258, TPRF #758) photographed 53 miles off Galveston on 27 March 1983 (**TKoe**). There is a specimen that cannot be located that was taken prior to 1910 in the Rockport area, but the Galveston bird remains the only Texas record currently accepted by the TBRC.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) (9). One adult (1988-203, TPRF #671) at Anahuac NWR, *Chambers* from 12 March–24 April 1988 (**DP**, TE, JA). One adult (1988-211) north of the High Island high bridge, *Chambers* on 23 April 1988 (**CE**). Two adults (1988-209, TPRF #672) in *Chambers* on 1 May 1988 (**TE**). Two adults (1988-210) on west Galveston Island from 6–20 May 1988 (**WG, SB,** JM, GL, CN). One adult (1989-131) on Galveston Island on 22 April 1989 (**J&WR**). One adult (1989-147) at Port Bolivar, *Galveston* on 29 April 1989 (**JM,**

TE, BB, RE). One adult (1989-148) at Anahuac NWR, *Chambers* on 10 June 1989 (**JM, TE, BB, RE**). This species, first accepted for Texas only in 1988 (Lasley, 1989), now appears to be an annual spring and summer visitor on the UTC in very small numbers.

Jabiru (*Jabiru mycteria*) (5). Two (1989-137, TPRF #763) photographed approximately nine miles east of Encino, *Brooks* on 29 October 1979 (**TU**). These birds were apparently present for several weeks but a full range of dates is not available.

Brant (*Branta bernicla*) (8). One (1989-74) at High Island, *Galveston* on 13 December 1986 (**DA, DMu**).

Muscovy Duck (*Cairina moschata*). Three immatures (1987-10, TPRF #731) at Salineno, *Starr* on 21 November 1986 (**ML**); this record was initially not accepted by the TBRC during its first review (Lasley, 1988) but was circulated again in 1989 after the TBRC had accepted the species for the Texas list. Three (one adult, two immatures) (1988-300, TPRF #745) at Salineno 9–22 October 1988 (**MH, KZ**). One adult (1989-141, TPRF #761) on the Tigre Grande arm of Falcon Lake, *Zapata* on 16 March 1989 (**MDa, MHo**). This species is now considered to be an uncommon to rare permanent resident along the Rio Grande in the vicinity of Falcon Lake and the TBRC has removed it from the main Review List (see end of report).

Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) (4). One adult (1989-31) at Sheldon Reservoir, *Harris* on 12 January 1973 (**TBF, VE**). This record is the first (and only) accepted UTC report. One immature (1988-5) on 29–30 December 1982 at Rio Grande Village, BBNP, *Brewster* (**CW,** GL). One adult (1989-20) near Panther Junction, BBNP, 20 January 1989 (FO). Although reported often, this species is seldom well documented in Texas.

Common Black-Hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*). One adult (1988-265, TPRF #692) photographed at Boquillas Canyon, BBNP, *Brewster* on 21 March 1979 (**KB, TG**). One adult at a nest (1988-229, TPRF #668) on 23 May 1988 along the Devil's River near Comstock, *Val Verde* (**KA, DC**). One adult (1988-294) in *Brooks* on 30 October 1988 (**AO**). This species has been taken off the main Review List by the TBRC but documentation is still solicited in order to study the status and distribution of the species in Texas (see end of report).

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*). Although not on the Review List, the Texas Christmas Bird Count Editor has requested the TBRC to review records of this species submitted on CBC's. One immature (1989-55, TPRF #736) in *Brazoria* on 31 December 1987 and 3 January 1988 (**MAY, RU, BH**).

Northern Jacana (*Jacana spinosa*) One (1989-81) at Eagle Nest Lake, *Brazoria* on 28 March 1972 (GM). One (1988-249) at Bentsen SP, *Hidalgo* from "late" November until 28 December 1985 (CN).

Surfbird (*Aphriza virgata*) (3). One (1988-222) on West Galveston Island on 16 March 1988 (**D&LE, G&JC**).

Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*) (6). One (1988-252, TPRF #704) at Freeport, *Brazoria* from 19–22 December 1976 (TG, TBF, WC). One (1988-251, TPRF #686) from 12 November 1977 through 14 January 1978 at Freeport (TE, RMe). One (1988-250, TPRF #687) at Freeport from 21 December 1980 until "late" February 1981 (**TE**).

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) (10). One (1989-118) at Galveston from 29 March

until 1 April 1981 (**TBF**, AD). One (1988-226, TPRF #667) at Gilchrist, *Galveston* on 12–14 May 1984 (**TE**). One (1988-241) at Austin, *Travis* on 20 August 1988 (**CB**, EK, RH)

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercoraris pomarinus*). One (1988-281. TPRF #699) at San Luis Pass, *Galveston* from 31 May through 2 August 1986 (**TE**). One (1989-58, TPRF #748) at Bolivar Flats, *Galveston* on 28 November 1986 (**TJ**, BR). Two (1989-8) at Galveston on 26 December 1988 (**TE**). This species has been removed from the regular Review List and its distribution and status in Texas is being studied by a subcommittee of the TBRC (see end of report).

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercoraris parasiticus*). One adult (1988-16) on South Padre Island, *Cameron* on 16 January 1982 (**CS**). Six (3 adults, 3 immatures) (1988-262, TPRF #689) at Boca Chica, *Cameron* on 21 February 1986 (**BZ, GL**). Like the Pomarine, this species has been removed from the main Review List (see end of report).

Little Gull (*Larus minutus*) (8). One adult (1989-1, TPRF #744) at Mountain Creek Lake, *Dallas* from 6–17 December 1988 (**MH**, CH). One adult (1989-10) at Lake Waco, *McLennan* from 9 January until 2 March 1989 (**JMu**, CS, MAT, GL).

Common Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) (2). One adult in breeding plumage (1989-26) on 1 and 3 March 1989 at Lake Arlington, *Tarrant* (**AW**, JWS).

Mew Gull (*Larus canus*) (2). One first-winter bird (1989-24, TPRF #730) from 14 December 1988 through 4 January 1989 at the Eastside Sanitary Landfill in Fort Worth, *Tarrant* (**CH, MP**).

California Gull (*Larus californicus*) (11). One second-winter bird (1989-116) at Bolivar Flats, *Galveston,* on 26 October 1980 (**BW, PS, BBa**). One adult (1988-271) at McNary Reservoir, *Hudspeth* on 28 January 1985 (**BZ, JD**). One adult (1989-15) at Fort Hancock Reservoir, *Hudspeth* from 5–8 November 1988 (**LJ**, BZ). One first-winter bird (1989-100) at Mountain Creek Lake, *Dallas* from 14 December 1988 through 21 January 1989 (**KN**). One second-winter bird (1989-28) at the Brownsville Dump, *Cameron* on 12 February 1989 (**BW**).

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*) (7). One adult (1988-267, TPRF #747) at Lake Waco, *McLennan* from 5–24 August 1988 (**JMu**). This record represented the earliest fall date for the species in Texas as well as only the second record of an adult in the state.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) (31). One adult (1989-32) in Galveston on 28 January 1973 (NP). One adult (1989-109) in Galveston from 8 December 1975 until 4 April 1975 (J&NS, TBF). One adult (1988-220) at Port Aransas, *Nueces* on 4 January 1981 (TA). One adult (1988-261, TPRF #688) at Boca Chica, *Cameron* on 21 February 1986 (**GL, BZ**). One second or third-winter bird (1988-3) at the Brownsville Dump, *Cameron* on 28 December 1986 (**StC, DDi**). One adult (1988-197) at Laguna Atascosa NWR, *Cameron* on 4 March 1988 (**CB, JC**). One adult (1988-229, TPRF #674) at Padre Island National Seashore, *Kleberg* on 15 March 1988 (**TA**). One adult (1989-52) at San Luis Pass, *Galveston* on 8 January 1989 (**TE**). One adult (1989-93, TPRF #739) at the Brownsville Dump on 11 January 1989 (**JD**). One third-winter bird (1989-140) at San Ygnacio, *Zapata* on 8 April 1989 (**BZ, RBo**). This bird was also seen on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande providing one of the very few records for that country. In addition to the above records it should also be noted that the Lesser Black-backed

Gull on Mustang Island at Port Aransas in 1983 (TPRF #333) has continued to winter at the same location and was present this year from 25 October 1988 until 16 April 1989.

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) (31). One first-winter bird (1988-268) at Texas City, *Galveston* on 7 January 1978 (**JM, TE**). One first-winter bird (1988-283, TPRF #712) on East Beach, Galveston on 14 January 1979 (**TE**). One first-winter bird (1988-284, TPRF #713) from 1–11 March 1982 at East Beach, Galveston (**TE**). One first-winter bird (1988-286) at Bolivar Flats on 28 April 1983 (**TE, JM**). One first-winter bird (1988-285, TPRF #714) at San Luis Pass, *Galveston* on 7 April 1985 (**TE, VE**). One first-winter bird (1988-263, TPRF #690) at Boca Chica, *Cameron* on 8 April 1986 (**BZ, GL**). One first-winter bird (1988-233, TPRF #679) at Rollover Pass, *Galveston* from 16–28 April 1988 (GJ, HW, TW). One first-winter bird (1988-292, TPRF #715) at Hornsby Bend Ponds, Austin, *Travis* on 8 December 1988 (**GL,** EK) represents one of few inland Texas records. One first-winter bird (1989-43) at the mouth of the Brazos River, *Brazoria* on 20 December 1988 (**MB**). One first-winter bird (1989-57, TPRF #740) at Freeport, *Brazoria* on 3 January 1989 (**MH**). One first-winter bird (1989-61) at San Luis Pass, *Galveston* on 4 March 1989 (**PG**). One first-winter bird (1989-149, TPRF #776) at Bolivar Flats from 15 April until 6 May 1989 (TE, JM). Most, if not all of the late 1988 and early 1989 records on the UTC may pertain to the same wandering bird.

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) (11). One first-winter bird (1989-11) at Galveston on 8 February 1981 (**TBF**). One first-winter bird (1989-65) at Galveston on 24 January 1984 (MHo).

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) (13). One first-winter bird (1989-34, TPRF #735) at Mountain Creek Lake, *Dallas* from 6 December 1988 through 17 January 1989 (**MH,** SM, A&MC). A photo of this bird was published in *AB* 43: 336. One first-winter bird (1989-29, TPRF #742) at Aransas Pass, *San Patricio,* from 12–26 January 1989 (E&NA).

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*) (18). One juvenal bird (1989-9, TPRF #743) in Lubbock on 24 October 1970 (LG). One juvenal bird (1988-208) at Lake Benbrook, *Tarrant* from 18–20 October 1986 (**CH, RDC**). One juvenal (1988-243, TPRF #684) at Pico Norte Pond, El Paso, on 12 September 1988 (**BZ**). A photo of this bird was published in *AB* 43:131. One juvenal bird (1988-245, TPRF #685) at Fort Bliss, El Paso on 23–24 September 1988 (**B&YZ**). Two juvenal birds (1988-260) at Lake Buchanan, *Llano/Burnet* on 25 September 1988 (**ES, LS**). One juvenal bird (1988-273, TPRF #694) at Lake Balmorhea, *Reeves* from 5–7 October 1988 (**ML**). One juvenal (or first-winter?) bird (1989-13) at Mountain Creek Lake, *Dallas* on 10 December 1988 (**KN**). This record represents the only accepted winter record for Texas and probably only the second winter record for the United States.

Bridled Tern (*Sterna anaethetus*) (5). One (1988-277, TPRF #697, *TCWC #12442) found dead at Port Aransas, *Nueces* on 17 September 1988 (**TA**). Three (1988-278, TPRF #698) at Port Aransas on 17 September 1988 (**TA**). A photo of one of these three birds was published in *AB* 43:128. One (1988-299, TPRF #746, *SFASU #3088) collected at Bolivar Flats, *Galveston* on 17 September 1988 (**DF,** DW). One (1988-290) on the *Cameron/Willacy* line, South Padre Island on 18 September 1988 (**AW, SP**). A flock of up to 25 individuals (1988-246) off of Freeport, *Brazoria* on 25 September 1988 (**PG, MAu**). All of the above records

were apparently associated with the passage of Hurricane Gilbert. These reports (in combination) represent the first accepted state records of the species.

Brown Noddy (*Anous stolidus*) (2). One immature (1988-291, TPRF #710) on the *Cameron/Willacy* line, South Padre Island on 18 September 1988 (**AW, SP**). A photo of this bird was published in *AB* 43:128. Like the Bridled Tern records above, this record was most likely the result of Hurricane Gilbert.

Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*) (7). A pair (1989-85) at Brownsville, *Cameron* on 7 January 1989 (**FO, EI**). Brightly plumaged Common Ground-Doves are sometimes misidentified as Ruddy Ground-Dove. See Dunn and Garrett (1990) for important identification notes on this species.

Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis*). Two adults (1988-200, TPRF #676) photographed on 5 March 1988 in the GMNP, *Culberson* (**OO**). One (1989-38, TPRF #750) roosting in an El Paso backyard on 2 January 1989 (**R&LL**, JSp). This species has been removed from the main Review List (see end of report).

Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) (8). One (1988-230) in the high country of GMNP, *Culberson* on 28 and 29 May 1988 (**CH, TR**). This species is probably a very rare resident of these mountains but is seldom well documented by observers.

Green Violet-ear (*Colibri thalassinus*) (9). One (1989-145, TPRF #759) at Brownsville, *Cameron* on 3 and 4 June 1989 (**BM**, M&RFa).

Lewis' Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*) (11). One (1989-14) in McKittrick Canyon, GMNP, *Culberson* on 28 December 1982 (**CS**). One (1988-293, TPRF #716) at Frijole Historic Site, GMNP on 3 January 1986 (**ML**). One (1988-266, TPRF #693) along the Guadalupe River, Kerrville, *Kerr* from 10 December 1987 until 26 March 1988 (**TG**, KB). Two (1988-205, TPRF #673, TBSL #165-01) at Ft. Clark Springs, Brackettville, *Kinney* from 25 December 1987 until 13 April 1988 (**TG, KB, BHa**). One (1989-6) near Gordon, *Erath* on 30 October 1988 (**KM**). One (1989-135, TPRF #775) at Muleshoe NWR, *Bailey* from 9–13 May 1989 (**NT, BL**, DC, DS, J&RSn, AWF, RE).

Williamson's Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus thyroideus*) One (1988-288, TPRF #711) in Lorenzo, *Crosby* on 19 March 1976 (**RL**, ML). One (1988-270) on 4–5 May 1984 in El Paso (**JF**). One (1989-124) on 11 March 1986 on the Lost Mine Trail in BBNP, *Brewster* (**DP**). One (1988-282) on 4 November 1988 in the Madera Canyon picnic ground, Davis Mountains, *Jeff Davis* (TE). This species has been removed from the main Review List (see end of report) but documentation is still requested.

Greenish Elaenia (*Myiopagis viridicata*) (1). One (1988-289, TPRF #330) at High Island, *Galveston* from 20–23 May 1984 (**JM, LF**, TE). Photos of this bird have been in the TPRF since 1985, but the record was not officially reviewed by the TBRC until 1989. This record, the first for Texas and the United States, has also been accepted by the ABA and AOU. A photo of this bird was published in *AB* 38:934. See also Morgan and Feltner (1985).

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes luteiventris*) (3). One (1989-30) at Anahuac NWR, *Chambers* on 2 September 1965 (**LS**) represents the earliest accepted Texas record.

Thick-billed Kingbird (*Tyrannus crassirostris*) (4). One (1988-240, TPRF #683, TBSL #164-01) at Cottonwood Campground, BBNP, *Brewster* from 5 August–18 September 1988 (**RT**, GL).

Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*) (2). One (1988-218) at Rockport, *Aransas* on 31 August 1951 (**SW, CoH**). This record represents the earliest of the two accepted for the state.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*) (5). One immature (1988-298, TPRF #732) at Ricardo, *Kleberg* from 18–26 December 1988 (**KW, RA, ToA,** PP, GL). Like the 1984–85 Texas record, this bird was likely the northern race (*T. s. monachus*) which is in contrast to most other U.S. records which apparently pertain to the South American race (*T. s. savana*). See Monroe and Barron (1980). A photo of this bird was published in *AB* 43:232.

Rose-throated Becard (*Pachyramphus aglaiae*) (7). One female-plumaged bird (1989-82, TPRF #737) at Bentsen SP, *Hidalgo* from 13 December 1988–30 March 1989 (TS, JD, FO, A&MC, FB, DP, MD, JG, BJR). One male (1989-132) at Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo* on 24 December 1988 (**JGo**).

Cave Swallow (*Hirundo fulva*). Although not on the Texas Review List, the following record was reviewed by the TBRC since it represented the first UTC record. Two pairs (1989-150, TPRF #777) nested at Sea Rim SP, *Jefferson* from 24 April into "summer" 1989 (**JC, BS,** TE, JM, WG, JB). A photo of these birds was published in *AB* 43:508.

American Dipper (*Cinclus mexicanus*) (5). One (1989-5, TPRF #664) at GMNP, *Culberson* on 23 Oct 1988 and 2 Jan 1989 (**BWa,** OO). It is fairly safe to assume that the observations on these two dates represent the same individual bird as the particular location had a restricted access and the only two visits by observers during that time frame each yielded the bird.

Clay-colored Robin (*Turdus grayi*) (26). One (1988-77) on 3 January 1974 at Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo* (KAb). One (1988-202) at Sarita, *Kenedy* on 8 December 1987 (**JRo**). One (1988-206) from 15 January through 1 April 1988 at Corpus Christi, *Nueces* (**GB**). One (1989-125) at Santa Ana NWR from 11 December 1988 through 5 February 1989 (TEW, JGo, RR, TWo).

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) (6). One (1989-142) at Cottonwood Campground, BBNP, *Brewster* on 12 and 14 April 1989 (**D&MSh,** LD).

Aztec Thrush (*Ridgwayia pinicola*) (3). One (1989-22) at Boot Spring, BBNP, *Brewster* on 31 July, 1 and 7 August 1982 (**CS,** ML).

Northern Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*). One immature (1989-35) on 14 November 1985 in rural *Armstrong* (**GL**). One immature (1989-36) on 15–16 November 1985 in *Randall* (**BBa, GL**). One (1989-92) at Palo Duro Canyon SP, *Randall,* on 22 January 1989 (**CH, TR**). One immature (1989-130) 12 mi. E of Texline, *Dallam* on 6 March 1989 (**AW**). One immature (1989-62) at Lake Mineral Wells SP, *Parker* on 19 March 1989 (**CH**). This species has been removed from the main Review List but documentation is still requested (see end of report).

Yellow-green Vireo (*Vireo flavoviridis*) (5). A pair (1988-224) at Laguna Atascosa NWR, *Cameron* from 2 July–6 August 1988 (**RT,** MA, OC, DL, CB, CH). This pair of birds nested and apparently fledged three young.

Black-whiskered Vireo (*Vireo altiloguus*) (4). One (1989-122) from 30 April to 3 May 1981 on west Galveston Island, *Galveston* (**PDH,** WR). One (1988-223) on 4–5 April 1987 at High Island, *Galveston* (**RT**). One (1988-231, TPRF #670) on 23 May 1988 several miles N of Rockport in *Aransas* (**CC**).

Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*) (5). One (1989-76) at Port Bolivar, *Galveston* on 10 October 1979 (**TBF**). One (1988-238) in Grand Prairie, *Dallas* on

30 April 1988 (**KN**). One (1988-244, TPRF #703) netted and banded on 5 September 1988 in Plano, *Collin* (**AV**). This species is often reported, but only rarely well-documented in Texas. It is a species that generally migrates well to the east of Texas and observers should exercise great caution in its identification.

Gray-crowned Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis poliocephala*) (there are over 30 accepted records of this species in Texas, but only 4 in the 20th century). One (1988-204) at Rancho Viejo, *Cameron* on 15 April 1988 (JG). One male (1989-144, TPRF #760) at the Sabal Palm Grove, *Cameron* from 21 May until 5 July 1989 (**M&RFa,** A&MC, OC, MK, BM). The latter bird was possibly the same bird that was at the Palm Grove in 1988 (Lasley, 1989). Photos of the 1989 bird were published in *AB* 43:397, 1278.

Red-faced Warbler (*Cardellina rubrifrons*) (6). One (1988-242) at Boot Spring, BBNP, *Brewster* on 8 August 1988 (**CCa**).

Rufous-capped Warbler (*Basileuterus rufifrons*) (6). One (1989-106) on 9 September 1973 in Campground Canyon, BBNP, *Brewster* (**DW**) represented the second Texas and U.S. record. One (1989-99) on the Lost Mine Trail, BBNP, on 12–13 March 1986 (**DP**).

Common Redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*) (3). One (1989-11, TPRF #733) at Glen Rose, *Somervell* from 7 January until 1 March 1989 (**OB,** CH, JMu, MAT, RPi, CS, CE, GL, AW). Photos of this bird were published in *AB* 43:271, 339. See Haynie (1989).

Unaccepted Records

A number of factors may contribute to a record being denied acceptance. It is quite uncommon for a record to not be accepted because the bird was obviously misidentified. More commonly, a record is denied acceptance because the material submitted to the TBRC was incomplete, insufficient, superficial, or just too vague to properly document the reported occurrence while eliminating *all* other similar species. Also, written documentation or descriptions prepared *entirely from memory* weeks, months, or years after a sighting are seldom voted on favorably by the TBRC. It is important that I stress here that the simple fact of not accepting any given record should by no means indicate that the TBRC or any of its members necessarily feels the record did not occur. The non-acceptance of any record simply reflects the opinion of the TBRC that the documentation, as submitted, did not meet the rigorous standards appropriate for adding data to the formal historical record. The TBRC makes every effort to be as fair and objective as possible regarding each record. If the committee is unsure about any particular record, it prefers to err on the conservative side and not accept a good record rather than validate a bad one. All records, whether accepted or not, remain on file and can be re-submitted to the committee if additional substantive material is presented.

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*). One (1989-78 in *Galveston* from 23 January–1 March 1975. One (1989-105) at Lake Texoma, *Grayson* on 19 January 1980.

Arctic/Pacific Loon (*Gavia arctica/pacifica*). One (1988-76) on 29 March and 1 April 1958 S of Port Aransas, *Nueces.* One (1989-79) at the Texas City Dike, *Galveston* from 11–23 January 1975. One (1989-80) at Galveston 29 April 1975.

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*). One (1989-97) at Possum Kingdom Lake,

Palo Pinto on 25 November 1976. Two (1989-123) in *Brazoria* on 24 January 1981. One (1989-19) at Smith Point, *Chambers* on 7 March 1987.

Greater Shearwater (*Puffinus gravis*). One (1988-239) off Port Aransas, *Nueces* on 21 October 1978.

Audubon's Shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri*). One (1988-201) off Port Aransas, *Nueces* on 13 March 1988.

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*). A report of 170 (1989-152) off High Island, *Galveston* on 31 March 1989.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*). One (1989-153) at Anahuac NWR, *Chambers* on 9 May 1989.

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*). A flock of eight (1989-21) over Brenham, *Washington* on 6 November 1988.

Muscovy Duck (*Cairina moschata*). One (1989-158) in *Starr* on 12 November 1987.

American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*). Two (1989-60) at Anahuac NWR, *Chambers* on 12 February 1989. There has only been one unquestioned record of this species in Texas since 1937 despite many reports over the years. The extreme variability of Mottled Duck plumages is generally not fully appreciated by many field observers. Any report of American Black Duck must be documented carefully (hopefully by excellent photos or by specimen).

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*). One (1988-106) at a private ranch in *Brewster* on 16 March 1984.

Masked Duck (*Oxyura dominica*). Two (1989-157) at Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo* on 26 April 1983. Two (1989-189) at Aransas NWR, *Aransas* on 16 January 1988.

Snail Kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*). One (1988-39) at Port Lavaca, *Calhoun* on 26 April 1974.

Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*). One (1989-136) at Lubbock, *Lubbock* on 20 December 1986. One (1988-237) at San Antonio, *Bexar* on 22 March 1988. One (1989-17) at GMNP, *Culberson* on 13 April 1988.

Common Black-Hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*). This species has been removed from the rarities Review List (see end of report) however documentation is still requested. One (1988-248) at BBNP, *Brewster* on 23 April 1983. One (1988-111) at Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo* on 21 December 1985. One (1988-181) near Lajoya, *Hidalgo* on 13 July 1986. One (1988-182) near San Manuel, *Hidalgo* on 8 March 1987. One (1988-296) near Lasara, *Willacy* on 23 December 1987.

Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*). One (1989-156) at Salineno, *Starr* on 12 November 1987.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*). Although not on the Review List, the Texas Christmas Bird Count editor has requested the TBRC to review all records of this species submitted on CBC's. One (1989-56) at Waco, *McLennan* on 21 December 1987. One (1989-54) at Ruidosa, Presidio on 29 December 1987. Most descriptions of winter Swainson's Hawks that are submitted are quite superficial and do not allow the committee to vote in favor of them.

Aplomado Falcon (*Falco femoralis*). One (1988-193) in *Hudspeth* on 28 November 1980. One (1989-155) at Laguna Atascosa NWR on 14 November 1987. One (1989-96) near Post, *Garza* on 6 February 1989. This species has been removed from the Review List mainly due to the fact that a captive release program

in *Cameron* has clouded the situation concerning whether or not any particular bird could be a naturally occurring vagrant or a released bird. Documentation is still requested (see end of report).

Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*). One (1988-253) at Freeport, *Brazoria* from 7 March until 11 April 1976.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*). One (1988-37) near Falfurrias, *Brooks* on 12 April 1975. One (1988-257) at High Island, *Galveston* on 13 April 1976. One (1989-68) in *Galveston* on 14 February and 24 March 1977. One (1989-119) in *Galveston* on 27 August 1978. Two (1988-26) near Winnie, *Chambers* on 29 April 1979.

Common Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*). One adult (1989-12) at Lake Waco, *McLennan* on 25 December 1988.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*). One adult (1988-109) at Corpus Christi, *Nueces* from 18 December 1977 until 5 January 1978. One first-winter bird (1988-117) on Mustang Island, *Nueces* on 12 February 1986. One first-winter bird (1989-103) at Lake Murvaul, *Panola* on 2 January 1989.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*). One first-winter bird (1988-255) at Dallas on 24 January 1976. One first-winter bird (1988-121) at Corpus Christi, *Nueces* on 24 March 1980. Two first-winter birds (1988-79) at Bolivar Flats, *Galveston* on 6–7 April 1981. One second-winter bird (1989-115) near High Island in *Jefferson* on 25 April 1984. One first-winter bird (1988-225) at Corpus Christi, *Nueces* from 22 February until 3 March 1986. Four first-winter birds (1989-101) at Mountain Creek Lake, *Dallas* on 21 January 1989.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*). One adult (1989-4) at Aransas NWR, *Calhoun* from 31 December 1988 until 9 February 1989. One probable third-winter bird (1989-83) at Corpus Christi, *Nueces* on 1–2 January 1989.

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*). One first-winter bird (1989-91) in Galveston on 20 April 1975.

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*). One second-winter bird (1988-219) on Mustang Island, *Nueces* on 8 January 1981. One adult (1989-25) at Seadrift, *Calhoun* on 24 February 1989.

Elegant tern (*Sterna elegans*). One (1989-114) at Freeport, *Brazoria* from 17–30 July 1965.

Brown Noddy (*Anous stolidus*). Two (1988-73) at Port Aransas, *Nueces* from 19–22 June 1960.

Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*). One female-plumaged bird (1988-124) at Santa Margarita Ranch, *Starr* on 13 January 1988. One male (1988-302) in northern *Hidalgo* from 29 April until 28 May 1988.

Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*). One (1989-90) in Dallas on 7 December 1988.

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*). One (1988-160) at Laguna Atascosa NWR from 8 January until 21 February 1988. If anyone could have tape recorded this calling bird the record may well have been accepted, but due to its visual similarity to Couch's Kingbird and the difficulty in describing its vocalizations the TBRC was not willing to accept this record as the second for Texas.

Clark's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*). One (1988-74) at Cedar Bayou, *Liberty* on 7 November 1958.

Black-billed Magpie (*Pica pica*). One (1988-213) at BBNP, *Brewster* on 25 April 1988.

Black-capped Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila nigriceps*). One (1988-254) at Black Gap Wildlife Area, *Brewster* on 27 April 1985.

Clay-colored Robin (*Turdus grayi*). One (1988-195) at Rockport, *Aransas* from 16–24 March 1988.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*). One (1989-18) at GMNP, *Culberson* on 8 May 1988.

Yellow-green Vireo (*Vireo flavoviridis*). One (1989-121) at Lake Jackson, *Brazoria* on 2 June 1976.

Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*). One (1988-15) at San Antonio, *Bexar* on 21 May 1987. One (1989-2) at Corpus Christi, *Nueces* on 10 October 1988.

Gray-crowned Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis poliocephala*). One (1988-175) at Falcon Dam, *Starr* on 15 February 1988. One (1989-86) at Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo* on 6 December 1988. One (1989-129) at Santa Ana NWR on 7 March 1989.

Crimson-collared Grosbeak (*Rhodothraupis celaeno*). One (1988-301) at Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo* on 17 December 1988.

Yellow Grosbeak (*Pheucticus chrysopeplus*). One (1989-160) at BBNP, *Brewster* on 18 May 1986.

Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*). A flock of up to 16 (1988-247) at Black Gap Wildlife Area, *Brewster* from "late" August until 2 September 1982 and again on 26 November 1982. Three (1989-159) at BBNP, *Brewster* on 17 and 19 May 1986.

Worthen's Sparrow (*Spizella wortheni*). One (1989-154) at Bentsen SP, *Hidalgo* on 11 November 1987.

Streak-backed Oriole (*Icterus pustulatus*). One immature (1989-138) at Bentsen SP, *Hidalgo* on 22–23 April 1989.

White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*). One (1988-256) at Dallas on 24 September 1972.

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Morgan, J. G., and L. Feltner. 1985. A neotropical bird flies north: The Greenish Elaenia. American Birds 39:242–244.

TBRC Review List

The TBRC requests details, including descriptions and photos if possible, of all records of the following species.

Review List A: Rarities. These species, in general, include birds that have occurred four or fewer times per year anywhere in Texas over a ten year average. The TBRC requests documentation for review for any record of the below species. The TBRC also requests details on any record of a species not yet accepted on the Texas State List.

Red-throated Loon, Pacific Loon, Yellow-billed Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Yellow-nosed Albatross, Greater Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater, Manx Shearwater, Audubon's Shearwater, Wilson's Storm-Petrel, Leach's Storm-Petrel, Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, Red-billed Tropicbird, Blue-footed Booby, Brown Booby, Red-footed Booby, Glossy Ibis, Jabiru, Greater Flamingo, Trumpeter Swan, Brant, American Black Duck, White-cheeked Pintail, Garganey, Eurasian Wigeon, Barrow's Goldeneye, Masked Duck, Snail Kite, Northern Goshawk, Crane Hawk, Roadside Hawk, Paint-billed Crake, Spotted Rail, Double-striped Thick-Knee, Northern Jacana, Eskimo Curlew, Surfbird, Purple Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Ruff, Long-tailed Jaeger, Little Gull, Common Black-headed Gull, Heermann's Gull, Mew Gull, California Gull, Thayer's Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Western Gull, Glaucous Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Sabine's Gull, Elegant Tern, Bridled Tern, Brown Noddy, Black Noddy, Ruddy Ground-Dove, Mangrove Cuckoo, Snowy Owl, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Mottled Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, White-collared Swift, Green Violet-ear, Mango *Species,* Broad-billed Hummingbird, White-eared Hummingbird, Violet-crowned Hummingbird, Antillean Crested Hummingbird, Costa's Hummingbird, Allen's Hummingbird, Elegant Trogon, Lewis' Woodpecker, Ivory-billed Woodpecker (presumed extirpated in Texas), Greenish Elaenia, Greater Pewee, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Tropical Kingbird, Thick-billed Kingbird, Gray Kingbird, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Rose-throated Becard, Gray-breasted Martin, Clark's Nutcracker, Black-billed Magpie, American Dipper, Clay-colored Robin, Rufous-backed Robin, Varied Thrush, Aztec Thrush, Black Catbird, Bohemian Waxwing, Gray Silky-flycatcher, Black-whiskered Vireo, Yellow-green Vireo, Yucatan Vireo, Connecticut Warbler, Gray-crowned Yellowthroat, Red-faced Warbler, Golden-crowned Warbler, Rufous-capped Warbler, Crimson-collared Grosbeak, Blue Bunting, Henslow's Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Yellow-eyed Junco, Snow Bunting, Black-vented Oriole, Pine Grosbeak, White-winged Crossbill, Common Redpoll, Lawrence's Goldfinch.

Review List B: Species under special study by sub-committee of TBRC concerning their distribution and status in Texas. Records of these species will not be formally reviewed by the TBRC (however, any reports of these species that were already logged into the TBRC files prior to 3 March 1990 will be reviewed by the TBRC and reported in the annual report), but documentation is requested to assist in these studies.

Clark's Grebe, Cory's Shearwater, Muscovy Duck, Common Black-Hawk, Aplomado Falcon (reintroduction program in progress), Pomarine Jaeger, Parasitic Jaeger, Spotted Owl, Williamson's Sapsucker, Northern Shrike, Baird's Sparrow.

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

Recent Literature About Texas Birds

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1988

Alisauskas, R. T., C. D. Ankney, and E. E. Klaas. 1988. Winter diets and nutrition of mid-continental Lesser Snow Geese. J. Wildl. Manage. 52(3):403–414. Includes data on diets of wintering geese feeding in rice fields on Garwood Prairie.

Baldassarre, G. A., E. E. Quinlan, and E. G. Bolen. 1988. Mobility and site fidelity of Green-winged Teal wintering on the southern High Plains of Texas. Pp. 483–493 *in* Waterfowl in winter (M. W. Weller, ed.).

Banks, R. C. 1988. Geographic variation in the Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Condor 90(2):473–477. Texas birds included in wing and bill measurements of birds from 19 geographic samples; establishes a potential intermediate population between the 2 subspecies recognized by Oberholser.

Bergstrom, P. W. 1988. Breeding biology of Wilson's Plovers. Wilson Bull. 100(1):25–35. Comprehensive nest study revealed low hatching success with nest failures associated with rain, mammal predation, and cattle; no double brooding.

Bergstrom. P. W. 1988. Breeding displays and vocalizations of Wilson's Plovers. Wilson Bull. 100(1): 36–49. Compares plovers from Matagorda Island with Virginia plovers and other plover species.

Boydstun, C. P, and C. A. DeYoung. 1988. Movements of White-tipped Doves in southern Texas. Southwest. Nat. 33(3):365–367. Quantified movements in native subtropical woodland and citrus orchard habitats in Hidalgo County.

Brown, C. R. 1988. Social foraging in Cliff Swallows: local enhancement, risk sensitivity, competition and the avoidance of predators. Anim. Behav. 36(3):780–792. Includes observations at Lake Texoma, Grayson County; found social foraging increased foraging success over individual foraging.

Burger, J. 1988. Foraging behavior in gulls: Differences in method, prey, and habitat. Colonial Waterbirds 11(1):9–23. Examined foraging behavior of 15 species of North American gulls; samples included Ring-billed, Herring, and Laughing Gulls in Texas.

Cain, B. W. 1988. Wintering waterfowl habitat in Texas: shrinking and contaminated. Pp. 583–596 *in* Waterfowl in winter (M. W. Weller, ed.).

Cain, F. 1988. First Texas panhandle record for Garganey. Bull. Okla. Ornithol. Soc. 21(3):18. Description of male seen 22 November 1985.

Campo, J. J., B. Thompson, J. C. Barron, P. P. Durocher, and S. J. Gutreuter. 1988. Feeding habits of Double-crested Cormorants wintering in Texas. Texas Parks and Wild. Dept. 32 pp. Analysis of stomach contents of 494 cormorants collected in East and Central Texas included 29 fish species; males and adults ate larger fish than females and juveniles, respectively.

Carignan, J. M. 1988. Predation on Rufous Hummingbird by praying mantid. Tex. J. Sci. 40(1): 111. Adult female mantid observed in Brewster County chewing on neck of male Rufous Hummingbird which responded to attack by going into torpor.

Castle, M. D., B. M. Christensen, and T. E. Rocke. 1988. Hematozoan parasites of Rio Grande Turkeys from southern Texas. J. Wildl. Dis. 24(1):88–96. Samples from 300 turkeys revealed 76% infected with *Haemoproteus meleagridis* and 41% infected with *Plasmodium* spp.

Chapman, B. R. 1988. History of the White Pelican colonies in South Texas and northern Tamaulipas. Colon. Waterbirds 11(2):275–283. Review of the historical record through 1987 and discussion

of factors relative to reproductive success in the Laguna Madre colonies in Texas and Tamaulipas.

Cooke, F., D. T. Parkin, R. F. Rockwell. 1988. Evidence of former allopatry of the two color phases of Lesser Snow Geese (*Chen caerulescens caerulescens*). Auk(3):467–479. Phases merged due to winter feeding on rice-growing areas of inland Texas; interbreeding with no reduced fitness.

Custer, T. W. 1988. Egg size and laying order in Black-crowned Night-Herons, Snowy Egrets, and Great Egrets. Colon. Waterbird Soc. Newsl. 12(2):26. Abstract only.

Davis, W. J. 1988. Acoustic communication in the Belted Kingfisher: an example of temporal coding. Behaviour 106(½):1–24. Studied associations between call structure and function in kingfisher vocalizations in Ohio and Travis County, Texas; includes sonographs and message content.

Dronnen, N. O., G. D. Schmidt, B. R. Allison, and J. W. Mellen. 1988. Some parasitic helminths from the American Oystercatcher, *Haematopus palliatus* Temminck, from the Texas gulf coast and the Common Pied Oystercatcher, *H. ostralegus* Linnaeus, from New Zealand, including *Dildotaenia latovarium* N. Gen. and N. Sp. (Cestoda: Hymenolepididae). J. Parasitol. 74(5): 864–867. First report of *Acanthoparyphium spinulosun* from oystercatcher; specimen from Galveston, Texas.

Farquhar, C. C. 1988. Ecology and breeding behavior of the White-tailed Hawk. Natl. Wildl. Fed. Sci. Tech. Ser. No. 11. p. 306–315.

Fedynich, A. M., and R. D. Godfrey, Jr. 1988. Waterfowl mortality surveys on the southern High Plains of Texas. Southwest Nat. 33(2):185–191. Carcasses collected on 15 playa lakes in winter showed mortality was not sex or age specific and avian cholera major cause of non-hunting mortality.

Gehlbach, F. R. 1988. Population and environmental features that promote adaptation to urban ecosystems: the case of Eastern Screech-Owls (*Otus asio*) in Texas. Proc. Int. Ornithol. Congr. 19:1809–1813.

Gehlbach, F. R. 1988. Avian biotic provinces of the Texas-Mexican borderlands: new techniques for synthetic resource assessment and mapping. Southwest. Nat. 33(2):129–136. Principal components analysis of selected attributes of breeding birds and natural landscape, climatic, and cultural factors.

Godfrey, R. D., Jr., and A. M. Fedynich. 1988. Incidental capture of a Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) in a mammal trap. J. Raptor Res. 22(2):65.

Guthery, F. S. 1988. Line transect sampling of Bobwhite density on rangeland: evaluation and recommendations. Wildl. Soc. Bull. 16(2):193–203. Observation from >2000 flushings from >6000 km of transects in 9 areas of Texas; line transects reliable method of estimating density.

Guthery, F. S., N. E. Koerth, and D. S. Smith. 1988. Reproduction of Northern Bobwhites in semiarid environments. J. Wildl. Manage. 52(1):144–149. Studies on Rio Grande Plains showed length of reproductive season and number of females laying decrease as climate becomes hotter and drier.

Haig, S. M., and L. W. Oring. 1988. Distribution and dispersal in the Piping Plover. Auk 105(4): 630–638. Winter recoveries of 91 individually color banded birds included 26 recovered on the Texas coast.

Hammons, R. L., M. R. Huges, and R. R. Moldenhauer. 1988. Body water and water flux in fresh water and sea-water acclimated Clapper Rails, *Rallus longirostris*. Comp. Biochem. Physiol. 91A:539–591. Acclimation slightly reduced water flux but body water not affected; physiological response like other birds with salt glands.

Henny, C. J., K. E. Riddle, and C. S. Hulse. 1988. Organochlorine pollutants in plasma of spring migrant Peregrine Falcons from coastal Texas, 1984. Pp. 423–427 *in* Peregrine Falcon populations. Their management and recovery (T. J. Cade, J. H. Enderson, C. G. Thelander, and C. M. White, eds.)

Hinojos, J. G., and A. G. Canaris. 1988. Metazoan parasites of *Himantopus mexicanus* Muller (Aves) from southwestern Texas, with a checklist of helminth parasites from North America. J. Parasitol. 74(2):326–331. Seven species of arthropod ectoparasites and 19 helminth species were found.

Hunt, W. G., J. H. Enderson, D. Lanning, M. A. Hitchcock, and B. S. Johnson. 1988. Nesting peregrines in Texas and northern Mexico. Pp. 423–427 *in* Peregrine Falcon populations. Their management and recovery (T. J. Cade, J. H. Enderson, C. G. Thelander, and C. M. White. eds.).

Hunt, W. G., and F. P. Ward. 1988. Habitat selection by spring migrant peregrines at Padre Island, Texas. Pp. 423–427 *in* Peregrine Falcon populations. Their management and recovery (T. J. Cade, J. H. Enderson, C. G. Thelander, and C. M. White, eds.)

Hunter, W. C., R. D. Ohmart, and B. W. Anderson. 1988. Use of exotic saltcedar (*Tamarix chinensis*) by birds in arid riparian systems. Condor 90(1):113–123. Compared avian use of saltcedar along Pecos River and Rio Grande River; examines possible explanations for differences in use.

Johnson, D. B. and F. S. Guthery. 1988. Loafing coverts used by Northern Bobwhites in subtropical environments. J. Wildl. Manage. 52(3):464–469. Examined structural characteristics, seasonal trends in characteristics, and attributes of coverts selected by bobwhites in southern Texas.

Johnson, R. R., and L. T. Haight. 1988. Avian use of xeroriparian systems in the Big Bend region, Texas. Chihuahuan Desert Res. Inst., Alpine, Texas. 9 pp.

Koerth, N. E., and F. S. Guthery. 1988. Reliability of body fat indices for Northern Bobwhite populations. J. Wildl. Manage. 52(1):150–152. Found mean percent wing fat did not reflect mean percent body fat; winter mean gizzard fat reliable for comparing differences in body fat among populations.

Kopeny, M. T. 1988. White-tailed Hawk. Natl. Wildl. Fed. Sci. Tech. Ser. No. 11. p. 97–104.

Lasley, G. W., C. Sexton, and D. Hillsman. 1988. First record of Mottled Owl (*Ciccaba virgata*) in the United States. Am. Birds 42(1):23–24. Description of a road-killed specimen near Bentsen-Rio Grande State Park, Hidalgo County, in 1983; accidental transport from Mexico unlikely.

Martin, R. F., and D. Hector. 1988. Nest lining with sheep wool: potential negative effects on Cave Swallows. Wilson Bull. 100(2):294–296. Use of wool in nests lengthens the incubation period possible due to decreased contact with brood patch, difficulty in turning eggs, and hatch synchronizing communication interference.

Maxwell, T. C., D. E. Madden, and R. C. Dawkins. 1988. Status of Le Conte's Sparrow, *Ammodramus Leconteii* (Emberizidae), wintering in western Texas. Southwest. Nat. 33(3):373–375. Avifaunal mist net surveys indicated species more regular and common in migration and winter in West Texas than previous records indicate.

McKenzie, P. M., P. J. Zwank, and E. B. Moser. 1988. Mottled Duck population trends based on analyses of Christmas Bird Count Data. Am. Birds 42(3):512–516. No apparent trends apparent in Florida, Louisiana, and Texas populations.

McMillen, J. L. 1988. Conservation of North American cranes. Am. Birds 42(5):1213–1221. Discusses population sizes, histories, captive propagation, reintroduction attempts, and habitat preservation for Sandhill Cranes and Whooping Cranes.

Millsap, B. A., and R. R. Johnson. 1988. Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl. Natl. Wildl. Fed. Sci. Tech. Ser. No. 11. p. 137–139.

Mock, D. W., T. C. Lamey, and D. B. A. Thompson. 1988. Falsifiability and the information centre hypothesis. Ornis Scand. 19(3):231–248. Tested 5 predictions of the ICH by assessing previous foraging success of Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets.

Moulton, D. W., C. D. Fentress, C. D. Stuzenbaker, D. S. Lobpries, and W. C. Brownlee. 1988. Ingestion of shotshell pellets by waterfowl wintering in Texas. Pp. 597–607 *in* Waterfowl in winter (M. W. Weller, ed.).

Mueller, A. J., and P. O. Glass. 1988. Disturbance tolerance in a Texas waterbird colony. Colonial Waterbirds 11(1):119–122. Documents decline of breeding birds, including wading birds, during oil well drilling adjacent to Pelican Island in Galveston Bay and subsequent increase after drilling ceased; concludes wading birds were more severely affected than gulls.

Ortego, B., and D. Lay. 1988. Status of Red-cockaded Woodpecker colonies on private land in east Texas. Wildl. Soc. Bull. 16(4):403–405. Status determination of 31 known (1977) colonies on 21 tracts of land; 4 tracts contained 9 surviving colonies, 22 no longer existed.

Palmer, P. C. 1988. Cave Swallow range continues to expand. Am. Birds 42(2):174–176. Observations of Cave Swallow nesting colonies and from Breeding Bird Survey reports in 1986.

Pulich, W. M. 1988. The birds of North Central Texas. Texas A&M Univ. Press, College Station. 439 pp. Species accounts of 385 species found in 32 counties surrounding Dallas-Ft. Worth metroplex.

Rappole, J. H. 1988. Intra- and intersexual competition in migratory passerine birds during the nonbreeding season. Proc. Int. Ornithol. Congr. 19:2308–2317.

Rising, J. D. 1988. Geographic variation in sex rations and body size in wintering flocks of Savannah

Sparrows (*Passerculus sandwichensis*). Wilson Bull. 100(2):183–203. Samples included birds from several Texas sites; examined relationships among morphometric and environmental variables to address whether males and larger individuals winter further north.

Seyffert, K. D. 1988. A Yellow Rail in the Texas Panhandle. Bull. Okla. Ornithol. Soc. 21(4):31–32. Observations 15–16 August 1987; first report for the area.

Seyffert, K. D. 1988. Breeding status of the Eared Grebe in the Texas Panhandle. Bull. Okla. Ornithol. Soc. 21(4):33–34. Reviews nesting, 1945–1982.

Seyffert, K. D. 1988. First winter sighting of the Clay-colored Sparrow in the Texas Panhandle. Bull. Okla. Ornithol. Soc. 21(4):34.

Shulz, P. A., and F. S. Guthery. 1988. Effects of short duration grazing on Northern Bobwhites: a pilot study. Wildl. Soc. Bull. 16:18–24. Study conducted on King Ranch, Brooks County, found bobwhite densities averaged 2.3 times higher on short duration than on continuous grazing.

Sidle, J. G., J. J. Dinan, M. P. Dryer, J. P. Rumancik, Jr., and J. W. Smith. 1988. Distribution of the Least Tern in interior North America. Am. Birds 42(2):195–201. Census data includes locations and numbers of Texas interior Least Terns.

Skaggs, R. W., D. H. Ellis, W. G. Hunt, and T. H. Johnson. 1988. Peregrine Falcon. Natl. Wildl. Fed. Sci. Tech. Ser. No. 11. p. 127–136.

Tabor, S. P., and C. T. McAllister. 1988. Nocturnal flight by Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*) in south-central Texas. J. Raptor Res. 22(3):91.

Tacha, T. C. 1988. Social organization of Sandhill Cranes from mid-continental North America. Wildl. Monogr. No. 99. 37 pp. Identified social classes and behaviors and observed associations of behaviors with classes and environmental variables; documented social interactions for identifying social relationships fundamental to social organization.

Teather, K. L., K. E. Muma, and P. J. Weatherhead. 1988. Estimating female settlement from nesting data. Auk 105(1):196–200. Studies of grackle nests on Welder Wildlife Refuge found variability in times between nest initiation and clutch initiation; evaluates the use of first-egg vs nest-initiation dates as indices for female settlement.

Teel, P. D., S. C. Fleetwood, S. W. Hopkins, and D. Cruz. 1988. Ectoparasites of Eastern and Western Meadowlarks from the Rio Grande Plains of South Texas. J. Med. Entomol. 25:32–38. Collected mites, ticks, lice, and a louse fly.

Tietje, W. D., and J. G. Teer. 1988. Winter body condition of Northern Shovelers on freshwater and saline habitats. Pp. 353 –376 *in* Waterfowl in winter (M. W. Weller, ed.).

Warkentin, I. G., and P. C. James. 1988. Trends in winter distribution and abundance of Ferruginous Hawks. J. Field Ornith. 59(3):209–213. No significant change in Texas populations found in analysis of Christmas Count (1952–1984) data.

Whyte, R. J., and E. G. Bolen. 1988. Flight ranges and lipid dynamics of Mallards wintering on the southern High Plains of Texas. J. Field Ornith. 59(2):143–148. Conclude the endogenous lipid reserves are a sufficient energy source to enable Mallards to reach alternative wintering habitat in response to adverse local conditions.

Wilson, M. H., and J. A. Crawford. 1988. Poxvirus in Scaled Quail and prevalences of poxvirus-like lesions in Northern Bobwhites and Scaled Quail from Texas. J. Wildl. Dis. 24(2):360–363. Lesions more common in Scaled Quail and highest prevalence were in late spring and early summer.

Yanez, D. M., and A. G. Canaris. 1988. Metazoan parasite community composition and structure of migrating Wilson's Phalarope, *Steganopus tricolor* Viellot, 1819 (Aves), from El Paso County, Texas. J. Parasitol. 74(5):754–762. Study of 12 Helminth species collected from phalarope from El Paso County found differences with respect to geographic locality and migration corridors; suggests seasonal migration determines parasite community composition and structure.

1989

Bergstrom, P. W. 1989. Incubation temperatures of Wilson's Plovers and Killdeers. Condor 91(3): 634–641. Data on incubation temperatures on 11 plover nests at Matagorda Island.

Bolen, E. G., G. A. Baldassarre, and F. S. Guthery. Playa Lakes. Pp. 341–365 *in* Habitat management for migrating and wintering waterfowl in North America (L. M. Smith, R. L. Pederson, and R. M. Kaminski, eds.).

Bolen, E. G., and D. L. Flores. 1989. The Mississippi Kite in the environmental history of the

Southern Great Plains. Prairie Nat. 21(2):65–74. Highlights historical events involving Mississippi Kites.

Boyer, D. A., F. S. Guthery, and R. D. Brown. 1989. An evaluation of shelters used in bobwhite management. Wildl. Soc. Bull. 17(3):264–268. Evaluated 5 designs for loafing shelters; bobwhites preferred the teepee shelter.

Campo, J. J., W. G. Swank, and C. R. Hopkins. 1989. Brood habitat use by Eastern Wild Turkeys in eastern Texas. J. Wildl. Manage. 53(2):479–482. Radio telemetry studies of females with broods in intensively managed forest land.

Clark, W. S., and B. K. Wheeler. 1989. Unusual roost site selection and staging behavior of Black-Shouldered Kites. J. Raptor Res. 23(3):116–117.

Clinton, -Eitniear, J. 1989. Raptor education in southern Texas, southern Mexico and adjacent Central America: Raptors in the modern world (B.-U. Meyburg and R. D. Chancellor, eds.), p. 601–602.

Cummings, B., and M. Cummings. 1989. Common Grackle consumes American Goldfinch. Bull. Okla. Ornithol. Soc. 22(4):29–30.

Custer, T. W., and C. A. Mitchell. 1989. Organochlorine contaminants in White-Faced Ibis eggs in southern Texas. Colon. Waterbirds 12(1):126–129. Studies in lower Laguna Madre found higher concentrations of DDE in eggs from unsuccessful nests but concludes DDE contamination not a major factor influencing ibis reproduction in southern Texas.

Custer, T. W. 1989. Egg size and laying order in Black-Crowned Night-Herons, Snowy Egrets, and Great Egrets. Pac. Seabird Group Bull. 16(1):24. Abstr. only.

Dickson, K. 1989. Contact zones of avian congeners on the Southern Great Plains. Condor 91(1): 15–22. Examined contacts of 5 pairs of hybridizing or potentially interacting taxa in Central and West Texas.

Economidy, J. M. 1989. 1988 fall reports: western continental summary: Texas region. Hawk Migr. Assoc. N. Am. Newsl. 15(1):87–91.

Esler, D. 1989. An assessment of American Coot herbivory of hydrilla. J. Wildl. Manage. 53(4): 1147–1149. Found hydrilla to be a valuable renewable food resource for coots and other wetland birds.

Eubanks, T. L., Jr., and J. G. Morgan. 1989. First photographic documentation of a live White-collared Swift (*Strptoprocne zonaris*) from the United States. Am. Birds(2):258–259. Describes observations during Freeport Christmas Bird Count December 1987 and includes photos.

Fedynich, A. M., and R. D. Godfrey, Jr. 1989. Gadwall pair recaptured in successive winters on the southern High Plains of Texas. J. Field Ornithol. 60(2):168–170. Documents winter homing and establishment of pair bonds with the same mate in two successive winters.

Fedynich, A. M., R. D. Godfrey, Jr., and E. G. Bolen. 1989. Homing of anatids during the nonbreeding season to the southern High Plains. J. Wildl. Manage. 53(4):1104–1110. Determined Mallards and Cinnamon Teal return to same wintering areas in greater proportion than expected.

Flood, N. J. 1989. Coloration in New World orioles. Behav. Ecol. Sociobiol. 25(1):49–56. Studied Scott's Orioles at Black Gap Wildlife Management Area; tests of predation related hypotheses did not support Predator Deflection Hypothesis.

Gray, C. A., P. N. Gray, and D. B. Pence. 1989. Influence of social status on the helminth community of late-winter Mallards. Can. J. Zool. 67(8):1937–1944. Samples from Castro County. Found pairing status most important variable accounting for significant differences in helminth community; important to consider social status in waterfowl experimental designs.

Haukos, D. A., and L. M. Smith. 1989. Lesser Prairie Chicken nest site selection and vegetation characteristics in tebuthiuron-treated and untreated sand shinnery oak in Texas. Great Basin Nat. 49(4):624–626. Measurements on 13 nests; 10 females captured in treated areas, 8 nested in untreated areas, >expected; differences probably due to reduction in vertical screening.

Hobaugh, W. C., C. D. Stutzenbaker, and E. L. Flickinger. The rice prairies. Pp. 367–383 *in* Habitat management for migrating and wintering waterfowl in North America (L. M. Smith, R. L. Pederson, and R. M. Kaminski, eds.).

Hunt, H. E., and R. D. Slack. 1989. Winter diets of Whooping and Sandhill Cranes in South Texas. J. Wildl. Manage. 53(4):1150–1154. Variability of winter foods used by cranes demonstrates the need to maintain a variety of upland and wetland foods.

James, P. C., and T. J. Ethier. 1989. Trends in winter distribution and abundance of Burrowing

Owls in North America. Am. Birds 43(4):1224–1225. Summarizes Burrowing Owl data from CBCs 1954–1986.

Johnson, D. B., F. S. Guthery, and N. E. Koerth. 1989. Grackle damage to grapefruit in the lower Rio Grande Valley. Wildl. Soc. Bull. 17(1):46–50. Describe timing and extent of damage, economic losses and associated factors, and suggest management strategies.

Kaufman, K., and R. Bowers. 1989. Comparing screech owls. Am. Birds 43(1):203–205. Compares voices and plumages including race mccallii found in extreme South Texas.

King, K. A. 1989. Food habits and organochlorine contaminants in the diet of Black Skimmers, Galveston Bay, Texas, USA. Colon. Waterbirds 12(1):109–112. Examination of 500 food items and Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*) carcasses and eggs detected biomagnification of DDE and PCBs; includes food species in diet.

King, K. A. 1989. Food habits and organochlorine contaminants in the diet of Olivaceous Cormorants in Galveston Bay, Texas. Southwest. Nat. 34(3):338–343. Found biomagnification of DDE and PCB in cormorant (*Phalacrocorax olivaceous*) carcasses and eggs over level in 1000 food items; low frequencies of other organochlorine contaminants were difficult to evaluate.

Lasley, G. W., and C. Sexton. 1989. The winter season—December 1, 1988–February 28, 1989: Texas region. Am. Birds 43(2):333–340.

Lasley, G. W., and C. Sexton. 1989. The spring season: March 1, 1989–May 31, 1989: Texas region. Am. Birds 43(3):502–510.

Lasley, G. W., and C. Sexton. 1989. The nesting season—June 1–July 31, 1989: Texas region. Am. Birds 43(5):1337–1342.

Mabie, D. W., L. A. Johnson, B. C. Thompson, J. C. Barron, and R. B. Taylor. 1989. Responses of wintering Whooping Cranes to airboat and hunting activities on the Texas coast. Wildl. Soc. Bull 17(3):249–253. Examined activity budgets and behavioral responses to staged hunting and boating activities on Matagorda Island.

McGillivray, W. B. 1989. Geographic variation in size and reverse size dimorphism of the Great Horned Owl in North America. Condor 91(4):777–786. Included Texas owls in measurements of 18 variables on owls from 7 regions; Texas and California owls were smallest and reverse size dimorphism constant across all regions.

Pesaturo, R. J., R. W. Manning, and J. K. Jones, Jr. 1989. Small mammals captured by Barn Owls in Lamb County, Texas. Tex. J. Sci. 41(4):433–434. Lists mammal and bird prey items found in owl pellets in Muleshoe Sandhills.

Peslak, J., Jr. 1989. Black-bellied Whistling Duck. Wildbird 3(6):14–18.

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A Herring Gull Nest in Texas

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The Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) is a circumboreal breeder (Oberholser 1974) in the Northern Hemisphere, with its traditional North American breeding range extending from the Arctic coast, south to the Great Lakes, and along the northern Atlantic coast. During this century, this species appears to have extended its nesting range along the Atlantic coast from Maine (Bent 1921) to the coastal islands of North Carolina (Drury and Kadlec 1974). At present, Herring Gulls are increasing every year as a breeder in North Carolina, and some continued southward spread is expected (fide H. E. LeGrand, Jr., Southern Atlantic coast regional editor, American Birds). Oberholser (1974) also reported that nonbreeding Herring Gulls are known to irregularly oversummer on the Texas coast.

On 3 June 1989, Bill Graber, Sharon Bartels, Arnold Moorhouse and I found a Herring Gull nest on a dredged-material spoil island (colony 618-180, Texas Colonial Waterbird Society 1982) in the lower Laguna Madre near Green Island. This spoil island is relatively large for the lower Laguna Madre and supports a diverse group of colonial nesting waterbirds, including approximately 1,200 pair of nesting Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*).

The Herring Gull nest had been placed on a rather small (200 m^2) rise, the highest part of which was not over one meter above mean high tide. The nest was placed on the edge of the rise in a relatively unvegetated area. This particular rise supported a small colony consisting of six nests of Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*), two nests of Reddish Egret (*Egretta rufescens*) and 12 nests of Laughing Gull. The nest was apparently being incubated by an adult which quickly left the nest at our approach. The nest, itself, consisted of a shallow depression in the clayey soil. Pieces of dried Sea Ox-eye Daisy (*Borrichia frutescens*) had been placed around the lip of the depression and two eggs had been laid directly on the soil at the bottom of the depression. The eggs, measuring approximately 70 × 48 cm, were light olive with rather bold brownish spots.

During subsequent visits, a pair of adults were consistently seen attending the nest. Finally on 24 June, a young Herring Gull chick, not more than a week old, was present at the nest site. The other egg was found to be infertile and has since been deposited in the Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collections at Texas A&M University (TCWC E-143). On and after 2 July, neither the chick nor the adults could be relocated. In all, the adults were present from mid-April to the first week of July.

This represents the first record of a Herring Gull nest in Texas and, if successful, would have been quite a geographic leap for the known nesting range of this species. Is this a one time event? Maybe not. In 1988, I regularly recorded an oversummering breeding plumaged adult in the area of this year's nest. Whether this individual was one of the birds involved in this year's nest attempt is unknown. However, Tinbergen (1960) reported a good deal of site tenacity for the nesting

Herring Gull. South Texas has several open municipal landfills of the type that may influence the spread of this species elsewhere. Therefore, we might expect another nest attempt next year by this same pair.

Herring Gulls can significantly affect other colonial nesting waterbirds by direct predation on eggs and young (Myers 1989) and indirectly by displacement of nest sites (Crowell and Crowell 1946; Erwin et al. 1981). Individuals involved in the conservation of colonial nesting waterbirds should closely monitor establishment of breeding colonies of the larger predatory gulls, including the Herring Gull.

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Observation of a White-tailed Hawk Pirating from and Talon-grappling with a Swainson's Hawk

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In the late afternoon of 14 August 1988 Nancy B. Palmer and I saw an adult Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) perched on the ground in a plowed field approximately 1.5 km west of US 77 on FM road 772 in Kleberg County, Texas. When I approached to within 50 m, the bird flew, carrying a small mammal, apparently a rodent, in its talons. The raptor perched on the cross-member of a utility pole near the road; the bird was then some 10 m above the ground and

probably not more than 20 m from me. I took three photographs, but when I attempted to move closer, the bird flew again with the rodent dangling from its talons. When the Swainson's had flown about 20 m from the pole, an adult White-tailed Hawk (*B. albicaudatus*), which we had not previously noticed, suddenly closed with it and grabbed for the rodent. The two birds appeared to hook talons; they tumbled briefly, making one complete rotation around a common center-of-gravity. The prey fell.

As it fell, the birds immediately disengaged from each other, and both dropped quickly to the ground. The White-tailed Hawk landed nearer the rodent and took possession of it. The Swainson's settled about 20 m away. Neither moved for several minutes; the Swainson's showed no inclination to attempt to recapture its lost prize. When it became clear there was no prospect for further photographs, we left them eyeing each other warily in the field.

There is no mention of talon-grappling by either of these species in Brown and Amadon (1968), Palmer (1988) or Kopeny (1988). Bent (1937) cites a 1919 report by J. A. Murro of Swainson's Hawks in British Columbia grappling with each other in this manner. I know of no record of talon-grappling by the Swainson's Hawk with members of any other species.

Several incidents of White-tailed Hawks pirating or attempting to pirate prey from other raptors have been reported. Actual and intended victims have included the Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) (Farquhar 1986, Kopeny 1988), Crested Caracara (*Polyborus plancus*) (Kopeny 1988), Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*) (Heredia and Clark 1984) and other White-tailed Hawks (pers. observations).

There does not appear to be any previous record in the ornithological literature of a White-tailed Hawk taking prey items from Swainson's Hawks.

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Pied-billed Grebe Mistakes Barn Roof for Surface Water

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Pied-billed Grebes (*Podilymbus podiceps*) have been found stranded on highways after rains (Auk 75:473–474, 1958). Presumably they mistook the wet pavement for suitable surface water and were unable to take flight because there was an insufficient stretch of water for taxiing.

On 21 April 1990 I was shown an adult Pied-billed Grebe in nuptial plumage that had landed, during a mild rainstorm, on the roof of a barn near Lubbock, Texas. The nearest surface water is a playa lake about one mile away.

The barn had a single, slightly sloping metal roof that was 18 m × 10 m. The bird was assumed to have been on the roof from about 3:30 to 4:05 p.m. (the duration of the storm), when it lost its hold and slid to the ground. It was observed on the roof by the landowners, who asked me to visit the site and identify the bird.

This grebe apparently mistook the wet roof for surface water, a surprising error since the roof was approximately 7 m above ground and presumably would appear to flying birds as a conspicuous, elevated structure, even during a rainstorm.

The apparent vulnerability of adult grebes to being stranded on metal roofs raises the question of how many grebes (including young left in the nest) might die in this part of Texas as the result of the thousands of metal barns that dot this flat landscape. The landowners who reported this occurrence are not typical of the rural residents of this region, very few of whom have sought the identification of wounded, incapacitated or dead birds on their farms and ranches.

The frequency of such accidents may be greater at this season because the spring rains have just begun and many of the numerous playa lakes of the area, where this species nests, are still without water.

NOTES AND NEWS

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Manuscripts, including tables, should be typed and double-spaced on one side of 8½ × 11 inch (22 × 28 cm) white paper. Allow 3 cm margins on all sides. Manuscripts may be printed using a high-resolution dot-matrix or letter-quality printer. The last name of the first author must be at the top of each page of the manuscript and on the back of every figure. Submitted articles should follow the format observed in this and subsequent issues of the *Bulletin of the Texas Ornithological Society.* Feature articles should include an abstract and a "Literature Cited" section. Short Communications do not need an abstract.

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